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The D I S T E M P E R

Generally known by the Name of the

M O L B A Y D I S E A S E,

*Including a Description of its Symptoms and Method of
Cure chiefly intended for the Use*

*Of the clerical and other GENTLEMEN residing in the
Country.*

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R O B E R T J O N E S, S U R G E O N.



M O N T R E A L.

Printed by FLEURY MESPLET, M. DCC. LXXXVI.

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TO HIS EXCELLENCY THE RIGHT HONORABLE
GUY LORD DORCHESTER,
CAPTAIN-GENERAL AND GOVERNOR *in* CHIEF

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BRITISH AMERICA,
VICE ADMIRAL OF THE SAME, AND GENERAL
AND COMMANDER IN CHIEF OF HIS
MAJESTY'S FORCES, &c. &c. &c.

The following REMARKS,

Are most respectfully inscribed,

B Y

HIS LORDSHIP'S—MOST OBEDIENT,
AND MOST DEVOTED HUMBLE SERVANT.

THE AUTHOR.

Montreal, 25 Nov. 1786.

ERRATA.

- Page 9, line 17, for which, read which.
— line 22, for dffering, read differing.
Page 11, line 3d, for poluttet, read polluted.
— line 22, for *Excerfcences*, read *Excrefcences*.
— line 24, for frepuently, read frequently,
and for Lmibs, read Limbs.
Page 13, CASE I. line 3d, for the the read the.

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ADVERTISEMENT.

HEARING that Government had seriously undertaken some Plan for the Removal of a *Disease* which has long infested this *Province*, alarming in its *Progress*, and destructive in its *Effect*; I have ventured to publish some *Remarks* on the Subject; extracted from Notes I have collected during some years past.

As it is a duty every Man owes to Society to contribute all in his Power to a purpose like this, I hope my professional fellow-citizens and others, will think my attempt justified by this Motive alone; and although my long *Residence* in this Country, and my Situation for some years under Mr. Huntley have afforded me at *least* an equal *opportunity* with others of observing this Disease, yet I have often wished that some Gentlemen of the *Faculty* more qualified than myself, would dignify a subject with his *Pen* which lays a double Claim to his Attention, as a citizen, and a *Professional man*.

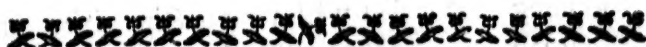
To ſuch I have only endeavour'd to explain my *Meaning*---It is the Gentlemen of landed Property and others reſiding in the country whom I wiſh to *inform*, for their *Uſe* I write, and for that purpoſe I have avoid'd as much as poſſible, every *technical term*, or profeſſional *Phraſe*.

As for myſelf if what I can ſay may tend to reſcue one poor wretch from *Disease*, or ſtimulate one rich man to Pity, and Benevolence, I ſhall be more proud of my Endeavours, than if they were rewarded with academical Honors.

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DESCRIPTION

OF THE

MOLBAY DISEASE

THIS Infectious Disorder which was first discovered in the Parish of Molbay below Quebec, has pervaded almost the whole Province of Canada with such astonishing and destructive Rapidity, that from the *Cedars* above Montreal, to the place where it was first known, no situation seems exempt; although the Inhabitants of some Parishes are affected with it in a more general, and more virulent manner than others. The Isle of Jesus, and Parish of Laprairie suffer at present in the most severe manner from the pressure of this Malady; on Isle Jesus in particular it is not uncommon to see a whole Family infected at once, and sinking under its Effect, and there is scarcely any House entirely free from it.

THE Inhabitants of the new Settlements in the Vicinity of New-Johnstown, Cataraqui, Bay of Quanti, &c. are as yet strangers to this destructive disease, happy if these poor people by the Care of the Legislature through the Channel of the medical Faculty, may never experience its dreadful Effects. In general the first Symptom of the Disease, is a dryness of the Throat, and Fauces, most sensibly felt in the morning, accompanied with a slight Heat, but in the

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Beginning unattended with Pain; (the absence of which is sometimes continued through the whole course of the Disease) for some time this goes off on swallowing any Liquid, which induces the Patient to relieve it by drinking frequently, in about a fortnight small Ulcerations are perceived on the Tonsils, Uvula, Velum Pendulum, Tongue, &c. which sometimes remain superficial for many weeks tho attended with a very foetid Breath, and slow Fever, then follow chaps in the Lips and Nostrils with a Distillation of acrimonious Humor from those Parts; the Teeth grow carious, and the Gums spongy, the Ulcerations spread till they unite, and destroy the substance of the Parts affected, the Fever increases, accompanied either with obstinate constipation, or profuse Diarrhea: The Limbs waste; although the Appetite continues good, often ravenous, the Bones of the nose at length grow carious, the Hair drops off, Nodes appear on the Head and Shins, the Lips swell violently, the stench increases till universal Putrefaction ends the Existence of the unfortunate Sufferer *

THE Progress of the Disease is not alike in all; it is slower in young people of a robust Constitution; in those of a scrophulous or scorbutic habit, the Symptoms are more virulent, and the Progress more rapid, and more so I think in women than in men.

THE absence of Pain sometimes during the whole

* Sometimes though very rarely the genital parts are affected with Ulcers,

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whole course of the Disease, is astonishing as I have
 seen the Velum Pendulum, and Uvula entirely dis-
 troyed with nothing more of Pain than a slight pric-
 king felt by the Patient.—In regard to the Cana-
 dians this is a most unfortunate circumstance; re-
 gardless of Danger where Bodily sensation affords
 no Monitor to alarm them, and where the dread
 of expence confirms their Indolence, they seldom
 apply for medical assistance till the Disease has made
 such Havock that it is sometimes Incurable; and
 even where it then admits of a Cure it too often
 leaves the wretched Patient to languish the remain-
 der of Life under the united miseries of an injured
 constitution, and a mutilated Frame.

HAVING thus endeavoured with as much accu-
 racy as I can, to describe the Symptoms, and Pro-
 gress, of this dangerous Malady, which has by some
 been confounded with the *Venereal Disease*, and by
 others pronounced to be only a *Confirmed Pox*, I
 shall next attempt to discriminate these two Disorders,
 and to prove what I myself beleive that they are dis-
 tinct, and separate Diseases, differing materially from
 each other, in their cause, mode of Infection, and
 method of Cure; happy if in the attempt I draw
 forth the Powers of some abler Hand, to confirm
 what I advance or proving it groundless to establish
 a rational opinion by more judicious *observations* of
 his own.

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COMPARATIVE STATE

OF THE

MOLBAY AND VENEREAL DISEASES.

IN drawing a comparative State of the Venereal Disease with that which is now so incidental to this Climate, in tracing the *Difference*, or *Similarity* of their appearance as well as of their *Mode of Infection* and *Cure*, it will be necessary to give some account of the former.

THE *Venereal Disease* made its first appearance in Europe in the year 1493, being imparted into Spain by the ships crew of *Columbus*, who contracted it among the Savages of America, on the Island of Hispaniola, which they had discovered, and brought it from thence to their native Country, from whence it is now spread over most parts of the known world.

THE first writers on the subject as well as those of our time, differ among each other, in the account of its *Origin* and the means by which it was first contracted; some affirming it to have been a Disorder peculiar to the Savages of *America* when discovered; others that it was generated by the Brutality of the Spaniards, a number of whom would satiate their Cruelty and Lust on the Body

of one unhappy female Savage, and produce by such repeated Violence an infectious matter in the genital Parts of the polluted Victim; which by communicating itself to the Ravishers in some measure punished their crime.

THE last opinion seems most probable, as in later times the same cause has produced a *Gonorrhæa* when it was proved that neither the woman nor any of the men labored under the Disease before.— There are two species of the Venereal Disease, the simple *Gonorrhæa* or *Clap* and the confirmed *Lues* or *Pox*—both contracted by *Coition* with an *Infected Person*.

THE first is Local proceeding sometimes from an Ulcer in the Urethra, sometimes from a diseased Relaxation of the *Glandular Parts*, and attended with a discharge, mucous, purulent, or Bloody, this is generally cured by cooling Purges combined with Diuretics, and often by Topical applications alone, injected into the *Urethra*.

THE other is a general Infection of the Mass of Blood, producing sometimes *Ulcers* and *Exceriscences* in the genital Parts, sometimes in the Throat, and frequently in both, with pains in the Limbs, &c. when these symptoms are perceived the Patient is said to be afflicted with a confirmed *Lues* or *Pox*—for this State of the Disease, Mercury is a general specific administered in various *Doses*, and *Forms*, proportioned to the age, strength, and constitution of the Patient; and to the *Virulence* and *Duration* of the Disease.

THE Ulcerations in the Throat are alike inci-

dent to this and to the Molbay Disease; which is I beleive the chief Reason that they are so often confounded together, and when in the latter any accidental ulcers appear on the *Scrotum* or *Penis* it confirms this opinion; but *Shankers* or warty *Excrecences* which are a very common complaint in Poxes I have never once seen in the *Molbay Disease*, another Reason for this opinion is that *Mercury* which is a well known specific for the Pox, is also successful in the other Disease, but *Mercury* has been found equally efficacious, in *Gutta Serena*, *Strumous Tumors*, &c. Diseases very different from any thing venereal.

BUT the most unequivocal proof that the Pox and Molbay Disease are not the same, is that the former is always imbibed by impure venereal cohabitation (although it is also possible to contract it by the contact of an Ulceration in a diseased Person with an excoriation in a sound one) but the latter will frequently remain unimpaired by the Commerce of the Sexes, through the whole stage of the Disease, in the last of which a woman will bear infected children to a husband who remains free from any particle of the *Distemper*, while the innocent Offspring perish, the *Loathsome Victims* of their mothers misfortune; in the same manner a man will die of the Disease, while his wife surviving will feel no symptom of it, altho perhaps others living in the same house may not escape the *Infection*.

TO this it may be objected that *assertion* is not proof, a *Position* too incontestible to be denied, and although I beleive that every Gentleman of the Faculty who has had an opportunity of observing,

and a desire of remarking, the Disease in question if not misled by prejudice, will concur in what I have said, yet to obviate this objection, I have subjoined three out of many cases that have fallen within my observation, in support of the *non-infectious quality* of the *Molbay Disease* by the commerce of the Sexes.

C A S E I.

— Sicard aged 35 wife of — Sicard of the Parish of Sault de Recolet, was attacked in the common way by the the Molbay Disease, she did not apply for assistance untill the Uvula, and part of the Velum Pendulum, were destroyed and many large foeted Ulcers appeared on the Tonsils, Tongue &c. there were also several livid spots on the Nose that indicated an approaching mortification; and she complained of a constant pain in the Head; in this situation she applied to Mr. Huntley who immediately ordered her on a course of Mercury by Uction, rubbing in two Drams of Mercurial Ointment, every night and purging it off as it affected the mouth; in about three weeks the Ulcers in the Throat disappeared, and the pain in the head went off, the skin of the Nose also resumed its natural Color, and the Patient was dismissed as *Cured*.

In six weeks all the symptoms returned with redoubled Violence, and one side of the Nose appeared black, she was then ordered to take a Pill every night of two grains of Calomel and four grains of Extract

of Hemlock, and a Powder composed of twenty-five grains of Jalap, and twenty grains of Nitre, every fourth morning, in about a week the greater part of the Cartilaginous Substance of the Nose sloughed away, but the wound appearing clean and the Throat getting better, the Medecines were continued and in a month she was perfectly cured.

During the whole process of the cure, this womans husband cohabited with her and yet remained uninfected, nor ever betrayed any symptom of the Disease.

C A S E II.

Marie Oilette aged 37 years wife of Gabriel Oilette Parish of St. Martin Isle Jesus, applied to me in the winter 1784 being infected with the Molbay Disease, on Examination I found her Throat and Tongue covered with small Ulcers, the Gums were very spongy and the Uvula almost destroyed, the Catamenia were irregular, (a symptom common in this Disease) but excepting sometimes a slight Head-ach, she felt no pain. I immediately put her on a Course of Calomel and Nitre, giving her a Powder twice a day composed of one grain Calomel and six of Nitre intimately mixed and purging it off every fourth or fifth morning with Glauber Salts, ordering her at the same time to drink plentifully of the Decoction of Sarsaparilla—In four weeks the Ulcers were quite healed, and part of the Uvula

sloughed away, the pain in the head went off, the Catamenia returned, and the woman has continued in perfect health, during this time her husband remained uninfected nor has he ever felt any symptom of the Disease.

C A S E III.

Therese Guenau aged 25 years wife of Joseph Guenau Parish of Laprairie, applied to me in the eighth month of her Pregnancy, being infected with the Molbay Disease. She had several Ulcers on the Tonsils and Velum Pendulum with Chaps on the Lips, and Nostrels, Eruptions on the Body, and Limbs, loss of strength, and inability to sleep; on account of her situation I advised her to defer attempting the Cure till after Delivery—In a month she was delivered of a male Infant that bore evident marks of the Infection, the Throat and Fauces were covered with Ulcerations, the Breathing by the Nostriis quite restricted, and the Lips swelled so as to render it almost unable to suck, this unhappy object languished a week and died of the Disease; the mother was then put on a course of Calomel and Nitre, purging it off as usual and in a month the Cure was completed; her husband was with her and remained sound nor has ever complained of the Disorder.

In the three Patients abovementioned as in most others the Parts of Generation were never in any manner affected with the Disease,

It may now be asked what then is the Molbay Disease? I answer it is an acrimonious Humor of an infectious Quality, pervading the animal System and when thrown by an Effort of nature on the Surface appearing generally on those parts where there is nothing but the scarf skin to obstruct its Eruption, communicable sometimes by *Contact*, sometimes by *Inhalation* often by neither.--Let speculative Theorists employ their time and talents in tracing its *Origin* and investigating its *Cause*, after a year spent in the successless search, they may perhaps own, that they would have been better employed in relieving one unhappy object than in enquiring how five hundred became Diseased.



METHOD OF CURE

MERCURY is the only specific hitherto discovered for the Molbay Disease and I believe it never fails, except when the Distemper is combined with others, and so advanced in its progress, or the Patients so aged or weakly as to render it impossible to administer Medicines--But we should beware least in exhibiting this dangerous Drug we materially injure the Patients constitution; and leave him cured of one *Distemper*, at the expence of inheriting a long succession of others.

The most common way of administering Mercury is in the form of an *Ointment* compounded of equal weights of Quicksilver, and Hogs Lard, rubbed together

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together in a mortar till they are perfectly united and no trace of the Quicksilver is visible, of this the Patient rubs from one to two Drams on the Groins every night till it is imbibed into the skin; the Unction is discontinued, when it affects the Mouth or Gums, and a Dose of Salts or Jalap given the next day, recommencing the Unction the night following and so continuing, untill the cure is compleated; during this Process the Patient must abstain from Spirituous Liquors, and salted meat, he may be allowed to go abroad and use moderate exercise, keeping himself warm, and his feet dry.

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In young and robust Habits this is a safe and certain method of Cure for the *Molbay Disease*; but in old or delicate, Constitutions, particularly in women or children, the Introduction of Mercury into the Habit may be dangerous, from its tendency to dissolve the Blood, and from the difficulty that arises in expelling it again.

Calomel combined with Nitre, seems therefore the most safe and pleasant Remedy to extirpate this Disease; one Grain of Calomel intimately mixed with five or six Grains of Nitre, and administered twice or thrice a day in a spoonfull of warm water, drinking after it a Draught of some diluting Liquid and purging it off every fourth or fifth morning, with Glauber Salts will generally effect a Cure; the Calomel in form of a Pill is more apt to purge the Patient, without mixing with the Blood, combined with Nitre it does not fall so readily on the Bowels; but if the Nitre excites a Pain in the Stomach (a thing not uncommon) five or six Drops

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of *Liquid Laudaneum* mixed with each Dose will generally remove this complaint.—A Spoonfull of Vinegar mixed with a pint of the Decoction of common Rose Leaves and used as a Gargle, will clean the Ulcers in the Throat, and if they are very foul two Grains of *Corrosive* Sublimate dissolved in the Gargle will greatly assist.—The Decoction of *Sarsaparilla* which grows *Spontaneously* throughout Canada, made strong, should be drank in the quantity of two or three Quarts per day by the Patient.

Bathing the Feet in warm water is very useful, and if the Patient catches cold during the Cure, his whole Body should be immersed in warm water. For children of ten or twelve years, the same Medecines administered in half the Quantity is sufficient, and so on in Proportion.

When the Disease is very obstinate, a Pill made of three or four grains of Extract of *Hemlock* and taken with the Calomel, is often very Beneficial.

These Medecines might be purchased cheaply by every Gentleman who possesses a Seignory, and administered by himself within his own circle where a Surgeon is not at hand, to the diseased Poor.

The Gentlemen of the French Clergy in like manner might assist their own Parishes, and sure their time and trouble would be well repaid, they would be doing the work of their Master *Jesus Christ*, in imitation of his Example they should not only preach, but *perform Charity*, else how can they hope for the Effects of Piety, in wretches who are taught to undervalue *Spiritual Consolation* because they find it offered, when *Corporeal Assistance* is de-

nied; at a time when their distressed situation perhaps requires the one more than the other.

The Gentlemen of landed Property also would find a trifling expence amply reimbursed, if not by the *Gratitude* even by the *Health* of their Tenants; more able to Labor, they would also, be more able to pay.—I hope there are many to whom this Argument will be superfluous. But when the cause of Humanity is joined to that of interest, who will not be charitable? ye therefore who are blessed with Health and Riches, will ye not assist those suffering wretches who are destitute of Both! it is from their Labour you derive the one, and it will be serving Him from whose Bounty you enjoy the other.

By this means Government will be greatly assisted in their Endeavour to extirpate the Disease, without the concurrence of the *Priests* and *Seigneurs*, the expence must be enormous and the inconvenience great; by their mutual endeavours without any great Expence, or any extensive *Professional* assistance the Country may yet be recovered from a *Calamity* more destructive than *War* or *Famine*; the sword even when most fatal, destroys Life without the horrors of *Lingering* in *Pain* and *Poverty*, and bounteous nature generally repays a year of Famine, with a succeeding one of Plenty. But disease renders the poor Inhabitant unable to guard against the one or take advantage of the other; by stopping its ruinous *Career*, this Province under his *Auspices* who formerly long governed it with *Honor* will again be the most flourishing in the *world*; and the Citizens who perceive, and the Peasantry who feel the *Advantage* will bestow additional blessings on the Name of CARLETON.

F I N I S.

1486
RECORDS
James G. A.
OF
THE DEPARTMENT
OF
The Secretary of State.

